

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1308273-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 2

Page 46 ~ Duplicate;

Page 47 ~ Duplicate;

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## (Continued)

On the tapes, Kuklinski told Polifrone, who was posing as a New York hit man named Dominick Provenzano, that he had committed murders "in all ways that you've heard of."

"There aren't too many things that I haven't done, my friend," Kuklinski said. In order to kill someone with cyanide, Kuklinski told Polifrone, "You put it on the catsup or gravy. Make sure it's goopy. You have to spread it out."

Frank had argued that the jury should not have been allowed to hear testimony about cyanide because doctors failed to check for the deadly poison while performing the autopsies. When a police investigation uncovered the possible use of cyanide, toxicology tests in June 1986 failed to find cyanide in the victims' frozen body samples.

Frank called three forensic experts, including Dr. Dominick DiMaio, a retired New York City medical examiner, who testified that cyanide was probably not used because it left no burn and corrosion marks inside the victims.

However, Assistant State Medical Examiner Dr. Geetha Natarajan said the victims were impaired by some kind of drug because their bodies bore no signs that they resisted strangulation.

During final arguments, Frank asked jurors not to believe the testimony of House and Barbara Deppner, who are living together at an undisclosed location. The couple testified in detail about the crime ring's operations.

Frank assailed House as "a known

killer and liar." House, who had been granted immunity from prosecution in a 1981 murder case in Paterson, was also granted immunity to testify about the Smith and Deppner slayings.

In his testimony, House admitted that he ordered Smith's slaying from his Passaic County Jail cell because Smith had "messed up" several crimes.

In addition, Frank accused Barbara Deppner of testifying in order to

retain custody of her own children. The state Division of Youth and Family Services had threatened to take custody of the children while Barbara Deppner was under investigation in the slayings.

Frank said that Kuklinski, a burly man of 6-feet-4-inches and 240 pounds, was "dissapointed" by the verdict.

"His position has been all along that he did not commit the killings. In the tapes, my client was blowing smoke, just like Dominick was blowing smoke," Frank said.

Frank called the jury's decision to find Kuklinski innocent of murder "by his own conduct" a "Pyrric victory."

"My client is 52 years old, so it's academic," Frank said.

1983. His taxes for 1980-81 indicate business income on a Schedule C. No taxes appear to have been filed for 1982 through 1984.

Kuklinski is said to have a second business office for ||  
Sunset at 225 Lafayette Street, New York, New York along with a garage/warehouse in North Bergen, New Jersey.

Sunset has 22-6290979 as a taxpayer identification number. Sunset had an account at the First National State Bank in Holworth, New Jersey. That account was closed in 1981. There is an account in his wife's name (Barbara Kuklinski) at the Provident Savings Bank in Dumont, New Jersey bearing the account number [redacted]. Kuklinski is said to have written checks on that account in his wife's name in 1984. It is believed that this is not a joint account.

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Furthermore, he is living in a home in which his mother-in-law, Genevieve Pedron, holds the first mortgage. She does not live there and is not claiming interest deductions for mortgage payments. The second mortgage is in the name of First National State Bank, Hackensack, New Jersey while the third mortgage is held by his attorney, [redacted]

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[redacted] It appears that he may have hidden the home from the trustee when filing the petition by placing his home in his mother-in-law's name.

Recent information shows that he is presently negotiating for the purchase of a house in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey for approximately \$300,000 -- not a bad recovery for a bankrupt.

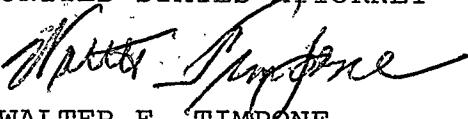
Finally, the trustee is [redacted] and he can be reached at [redacted]

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Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS W. GREELISH  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
WALTER F. TIMPONE  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Enc

Post Office Box 1158  
Newark, New Jersey 07101  
August 23, 1985

Honorable Thomas W. Greelish  
United States Attorney  
Room 502  
Federal Building  
970 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Attention: Assistant United States Attorney  
Walter F. Timpone

RE: RICHARD KUKLINSKI

Dear Mr. Greelish:

This will acknowledge your letter of August 20, 1985, concerning the investigation of Richard Kuklinski.

Please be advised that your request, together with submitted documents, have been sent to our Hackensack Resident Agency.

Very truly yours,

Robert P. Wright  
Acting Special Agent in Charge

By: JEP/C.S

Supervisory Special Agent.

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2-Addressee  
2-Newark(49A-NEW)  
LEP/lap  
(4) *lap*

49A-1830-3

*F f*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

110/11/85  
Date of transcription

Lieutenant [redacted] JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY POLICE b6  
 DEPARTMENT, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and b7C  
 he furnished copies of the following documents:

1. Statement of RICHARD L. KUKLINSKI -murder of GEORGE MALLIBAND, JR., witnessed by Detectives [redacted] and [redacted] b6  
b7C
2. Supplementary investigative reports in the matter of the murder of GEORGE MALLIBAND, JR.

Investigation on 9/23/85 at Jersey City, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830 -4  
 by SA [redacted] (A) /dhe  
 Date dictated 9/24/85

b6  
b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 10/11/85

Lieutenant [redacted] DUMONT, NEW JERSEY POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
 was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and he furnished  
 copies of the following documents:

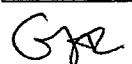
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b7C

1. Arrest report, dated January 18, 1982, of RICHARD KUKLINSKI.
2. Two FIRST NATIONAL STATE BANK Insufficient Funds Checks payable to GEORGE MALLIBAND.

In addition, [redacted] furnished a photograph of KUKLINSKI and  
 the following physical description:

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Full Name:	RICHARD LEONARD KUKLINSKI
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	April 11, 1935
Place of Birth:	Jersey City, New Jersey
Social Security	
Account Number:	142-26-7071
Height:	6'4"
Weight:	270 pounds
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Brown
Miscellaneous:	Wears glasses and has full beard
Martial Status:	Married, wife is BARBARA KUKLINSKI
Residence:	169 Sunset Terrace, Dumont, New Jersey
Telephone Number:	385-5548

Investigation on 9/19/85 at Dumont, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830  
 by SA [redacted] (A) /dhe   
 Date dictated 9/24/85

b6  
b7C



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Newark, New Jersey  
October, 17, 1985

RICHARD KUKLINSKI,  
doing business as (dba)  
Sunset Company,  
Emerson, New Jersey;  
NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY ACT

Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) WALTER F. TIMPONE referred this matter of bankruptcy fraud on August 23, 1985. Allegations are that KUKLINSKI had hidden assets when he declared bankruptcy with claims against him totaling \$250,000.00. His petition indicates he had no business interests but preliminary investigation reveals KUKLINSKI owned a pornographic company known as the SUNSET COMPANY, Emerson, New Jersey.

Additionally, investigation revealed [redacted]

[redacted]  
while claiming on his petition to be unemployed with no income received from himself or others.

RICHARD LEONARD KUKLINSKI is described as a white male, date of birth April 11, 1935, place of birth Jersey City, New Jersey, Height 6'4", 270 pounds, eyes are brown, hair brown and has full beard. His present wife's name is BARBARA KUKLINSKI.

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

4-Bureau  
1-USA, Newark  
(Attn: AUSA Walter F. Timpone)  
② Newark (49-1830)  
GJI/dhe  
(7) *she*

49A-1830-6  
FBI/DOJ

X AIRTEL

10/17/85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEWARK (49A-1830) (P) (HRA)

RICHARD KUKLINSKI,  
dba Sunset Company,  
Emerson, New Jersey;  
NBA  
OO: NEWARK

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and three copies of an LHM regarding captioned matter. Also, one copy was disseminated to the ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA), Newark, New Jersey.

LEAD

NEWARK DIVISION

AT EMERSON, NEW JERSEY

Investigation is continuing to substantiate the enclosed facts.

2- Bureau (Encl 4)  
Newark  
GJI/dhe  
(4) *clrs*

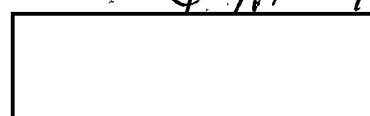
*GA*

1\*

*HRA* *DR*

*R R*

*49A-1830-7*  
*b6 b7c*



*DR*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 10/22/85

[REDACTED] TRUBEK AND GRASSO  
 ASSOCIATES, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, telephone number [REDACTED]  
 was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and she  
 furnished the voluntary information:

[REDACTED] advised TRUBEK AND GRASSO ASSOCIATES leased office space to RICHARD KUKLINSKI located at 428 Old Hook Road, Emerson, New Jersey. She furnished copies of three lease agreements signed by KUKLINSKI. Review of these agreements indicated KUKLINSKI leased office space from TRUBEK AND GRASSO, from October, 1977 through January, 1981. She was unaware of the type of business KUKLINSKI had and she assumed he was in the toy selling business. KUKLINSKI always paid [REDACTED] in cash with the exception of one occasion when she returned a cancelled check to KUKLINSKI and he gave her cash back.

[REDACTED] said that part of the lease agreement requires a Public Liability Insurance for personnel injury for a least three hundred thousand dollars. [REDACTED] could not recall if KUKLINSKI was carrying this insurance through her company or insured by someone else.

On September 23, 1985, [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the Paramus, New Jersey, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) Office and advised the agent that KUKLINSKI was not insured by her company and review of the company file did not indicate what insurance company he did use while leasing property from TRUBEK AND GROSSO.

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b7Cb6  
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Investigation on 9/20/85 at Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830 -8

by SA [REDACTED] (A) /dhe *GJ* Date dictated 9/24/85

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 11/12/85

Review of BERGEN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT Docket Number 477251 located at the BERGEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, Hackensack, New Jersey, revealed RICHARD KUKLINSKI was served notice of suit by DELTA AIR LINES on April 19, 1982. A judgement was reached on September 1, 1982 for approximately \$800.00. Attorneys representing the plaintiff were from the firm EICHENBAUM, KENTORWITZ AND LEFF, 586 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey.

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Investigation on 11/1/85 at Hackensack, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830-9by SA  JP Date dictated 11/1/85b6  
b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 11/12/85

[redacted]  
[redacted] was readvised of the identity of the interviewing agent. He furnished pursuant to a FEDERAL GRAND JURY subpoena [redacted]  
[redacted]

b3  
b6  
b7CInvestigation on 10/31/85 at Hackensack, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830 10by SA [redacted]  /jp Date dictated 11/1/85b6  
b7C

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

1

Date of transcription 11/6/85

Pursuant to a FEDERAL GRAND JURY subpoena served upon [REDACTED]  
through the United States Mail, copies of the following [REDACTED]

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b6  
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1. **What is the primary purpose of the study?** (e.g., to evaluate the effectiveness of a new treatment, to explore the relationship between two variables, to describe a population, etc.)

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10/29/85 Paramus, New Jersey Newark 49A-1830  
Investigation on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ File # \_\_\_\_\_  
SA [redacted] GJW/jp 11/1/85  
by \_\_\_\_\_ Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

— //

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

03448  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
970 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Date: March 7, 1986

[redacted]  
Supervisor Sr. Resident Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Building S-10 Route 17  
North Paramus, New Jersey 07652

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(X)  
epp

Re: Disclosure of Grand Jury Materials

Dear Sirs:

The Grand Jury materials are being disclosed to you pursuant to Rule 6(e) (3) (A) which provides in pertinent part:

Disclosure otherwise prohibited by this rule of matters occurring before the grand jury, other than its deliberation and the vote of any grand juror, may be made to

(ii) such government personnel as are deemed necessary by an attorney for the government to assist an attorney for the government in the performance of such attorney's duty to enforce Federal criminal law.

In connection with the disclosure of this information, however, please be advised that Rule 6(e) (3) (B) provides:

Any person to whom materials are disclosed under sub-paragraph (a) (ii) of this paragraph shall not utilize that grand jury material for any purpose other than assisting the attorney for the government in the performance of such attorney's duties to enforce Federal criminal law.

49A-1830-12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 04 1986	
[redacted]	

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An attorney for the Government shall promptly provide the District Court, before which was empaneled the Grand Jury whose material has been so disclosed, with the names of the persons to whom such disclosure has been made.

Pursuant to this requirement, your name is being supplied to the District court as an individual to whom disclosure has been made. If it is necessary for you in turn to disclose grand jury materials to additional agents or others for the purpose of assisting the Government attorney conducting this specific grand jury investigation, you are to maintain a record of such disclosure, such as by transmittal letter, memorandum or the like. Rule 6(e) now provides that "[a] knowing violation of Rule 6 may be punished as contempt of court."

In order to comply with the new requirements of Rule 6(e),  
please keep me advised of the status of the investigative steps  
instituted based on the grand jury material disclosed to you.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS W. GREELISH  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Assistant U.S. Attorney

WALTER F. TIMPONE

I hereby certify that I have been fully advised and understand the restrictions on the Grand Jury Secrecy requirements imposed by Rule 6 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Any and all matters occurring before the grand jury are secret and cannot be disclosed and knowing violations of Rule 6 may be punished as a contempt of court.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Agency</u>
 <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Agent</span>	
	
<u>Supervision</u>	<u>Supervisor</u>
 <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Sr. Resident Agent</span>	

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/18/86

Date of transcription

HAROLDS PUB. Route 10,

Randolph, New Jersey telephone number [redacted] voluntarily appeared at the Paramus, New Jersey Federal Bureau of Investigation office and he advised as follows:

[redacted] met RICHARD KUKLINSKI in 1972 when [redacted] was unsure if the house was in KUKLINSKI'S name or his mother-in-laws.

KUKLINSKI never concerned himself with money. He leased his cars from BROGAN CADILLAC in Ridgewood, New Jersey. His wife wore a Flemington Fur as well as expensive jewelry. They took numerous vacations and always used DELTA AIRLINES when they traveled.

KUKLINSKI had an pornographic film processing business. His office was in New York City and he had an apartment in Bayonne or Hoboken.

He displayed the gun he carried to [redacted]. It was described as a 22 Caliber Black & White Derringer. He told [redacted] the Derringer has no serial number and he liked to carry it when he had to collect payment or outstanding bills.

KUKLINSKI may have had another company called WAYNE DISCOUNT CENTER selling dungarees. KUKLINSKI may have used aliases because he used several different drivers licenses with different names [redacted] could not recall KUKLINSKI aliases.

In 1979 KUKLINSKI asked [redacted] for a \$30,000 investment in a film processing deal. [redacted] did not know the details however, KUKLINSKI promises to triple his money in 18 months. [redacted] collateralized his bank Certificate of Deposit and got a loan for \$20,000.00. He borrowed \$5,000 each from his father-in-law and brother-in-law. [redacted] gave KUKLINSKI a \$25,000 cashier check which was endorsed by KUKLINSKI. KUKLINSKI paid him only \$500.00 in cash. KUKLINSKI said the investment was a bad business deal and not a loan.

Investigation on 8/6/86 at Paramus, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830

by SA [redacted] rsh Date dictated 8/8/86

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b7Cb6  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONDate of transcription 8/18/86

[redacted] FLEMINGTON FURS, 8 Spring Street,  
Flemington, New Jersey, [redacted] was advised of the  
identity of the interviewing agent and she advised as  
follows:

MRS. B. KUKLINSKI purchased a Flemington Fur in  
November, 1979. It was paid in full with an initial deposit  
of \$550.00. There is no record of how the remaining balance  
was paid.

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*(X)*

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Investigation on 8/7/86 at Paramus, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830  
by SA [redacted] rsh Date dictated 8/8/86

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/18/86

[redacted] PHILMOUR INCORPORATED,  
 87 Washington Avenue, Dumont, New Jersey was advised of the  
 identity of the interviewing agent and he advised as follows:

The PHILMOUR is a clothing store where RICHARD KUKLINSKI was a regular customer since 1981. He averaged \$10,000.00 in clothing purchases for he and his wife. KUKLINSKI paid in cash in a timely fashion. He never paid with credit cards or checks.

[redacted] did not have sales receipts nor account information for KUKLINSKI. [redacted] was unsure of KUKLINSKI'S source of income. KUKLINSKI dressed nicely, drove Cadillacs and wore much gold jewelry.

[redacted] thought KUKLINSKI was in the film reproduction business however, his business deteriorated during his wife's illness. [redacted] remembered KUKLINSKI said he wanted to enter a partnership with other unknown individuals in a luncheonette business.

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Investigation on 8/7/86 at Dumont, New Jersey File # Newark 49A-1830  
 by SA [redacted] /rsh Date dictated 8/8/86

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b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# memorandum

DATE: 11/25/86

REPLY TO: SA [redacted] (HRA)

SUBJECT: RICHARD KUKLINSKI;  
DBA SUNSET COMPANY,  
EMERSON, NEW JERSEY  
NBA  
OO:NEWARK

TO: SAC, NEWARK (49A-1830) (HRA)

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Captioned matter was opened upon referral from Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) WALTER TIMPONE to whom the case was initiated by the New Jersey State Police (NJSP). Meanwhile, the NJSP has been targeting subject as their primary suspect in at least four homicides in the New York, New Jersey Metro area.

On 8/11/86 captioned matter was discussed with AUSA WALTER TIMPONE and after thorough review of all bank records and other evidence it was determined by AUSA TIMPONE that there was a lack of evidence to prosecute this matter. AUSA TIMPONE requested a meeting take place between himself, the New Jersey State Police, the Deputy Attorney General and SA [redacted]

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On 8/12/86 the merits of the above case were discussed with the above individuals and they were advised the US Attorney would not authorize prosecution at this time. AUSA [redacted] explained it would be necessary for federal prosecution to reveal subjects transfer of assets on or about the date of bankruptcy. To date, all investigative efforts failed to show any fraudulent "hiding" of assets by subject.

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It was agreed that the FBI would subpoena subject's [redacted] to be reviewed for lead purposes. In addition, AUSA TIMPONE requested subject be personally subpoenaed to furnish [redacted]

b3

On 8/28/86, Investigator [redacted], New Jersey State Police requested SA [redacted] refrain from a personal subpoena being served on subject due to a covert investigation and surveillance of subject by NJSP.

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2 Newark  
GJI/rsh  
(2)

49A-1830-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 25 1986	
FBI - NEWARK	
10	11.6
400-114	
O : 1985 O - 461-275 (428)	

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Newark, New Jersey  
April 8, 1987

RICHARD KUKLINSKI,  
doing business as (dba)  
SUNSET COMPANY,  
EMERSON, NEW JERSEY  
NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY ACT

This matter was opened upon referral from Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) WALTER F. TIMPONE, to whom the case was initiated by the New Jersey State Police. Initial allegations were that KUKLINSKI had intentionally "hid" assets when he declared bankruptcy with claims against him totaling \$250,000.00. Initial review of his Voluntary Petition indicated he had no business interests, was unemployed with no income received from himself or others, and [redacted]

Subsequent investigation revealed KUKLINSKI did own a pornographic company (SUNSET COMPANY) and was contemplating the purchase of a new house valued at \$300,000.00. However, further investigation which included numerous interviews of creditors, along with review of documents and bank records, failed to prove KUKLINSKI transferred assets at the time of bankruptcy. In addition, the New Jersey State Police indicted KUKLINSKI for his involvement in four local homicides. In view of this indictment and since all investigative efforts failed to show any fraudulent "hiding" of assets by KUKLINSKI, AUSA TIMPONE declined prosecution at this time.

RICHARD LEONARD KUKLINSKI is described as a white male, date of birth: April 11, 1935, place of birth: Jersey City, New Jersey, height: 6'4", weight: 270 pounds, eyes: brown, hair: brown and has full beard. His present wife's name is BARBARA KUKLINSKI.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

4 - Bureau  
1 - USA, Newark (Attn: AUSA WALTER F. TIMPONE)  
② - Newark (D-49A-1830)  
(1-66-3710)

GJI-slm

(7) SIV

49A-1830-17

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1987	
FBI - NEWARK	

FBI/DOJ

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

Teletype  
 Facsimile  
 Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

Immediate  
 Priority  
 Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

TOP SECRET  
 SECRET  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 UNCLAS E F T O  
 UNCLAS

Date 4/8/87

1 TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 2 FROM: SAC, NEWARK (49A-1830) (C) HRA)  
 3 RICHARD KUKLINSKI,  
 4 dba SUNSET COMPANY,  
 5 EMERSON, NEW JERSEY  
 NBA  
 OO: NEWARK

6 Re Newark airtel to Bureau dated 10/17/85.

7 Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies  
 8 of an LHM regarding captioned matter. Also, one copy disseminated  
 9 to the Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), Newark, New Jersey.

10 2 - Bureau (Enc. - 4)

① - Newark  
 GJI-slm

(3) *grm*

DUPLICATE SERIALS PURGED  
 AND DESTROYED PER BUAIETL  
 DATED 11/3/86, ON 4/28/87 INITIALS cd

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49A-1830-18

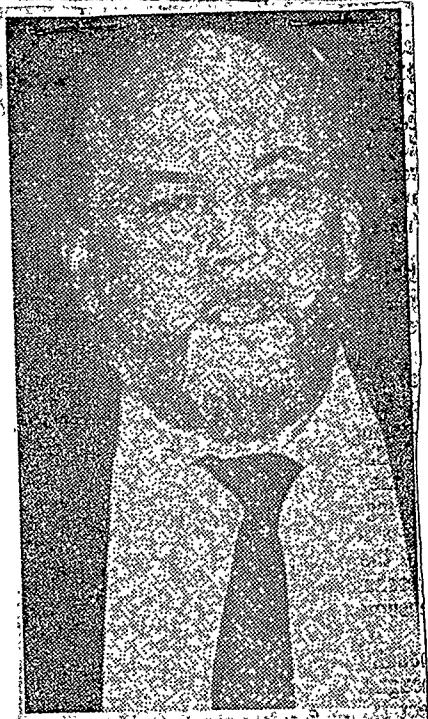
SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 22 1987	
FBI - NEWARK	
<i>HKamp</i>	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Prosecution wraps up in 'Iceman' murder trial



Richard L. Kuklinski  
*Experts to refute cyanide use*

THE STAR LEDGER  
NEWARK, N.J.

Date: 3/8/88  
Edition: pg. 20

Title: PROSECUTION  
WRAPS UP IN 'ICEMAN  
MURDER TRIAL

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

C-Y MD

49A-1830-20

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MAR 9 1988	
FBI - NEWARK	
JES	

PLA 100-10

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(CONTINUED)

By DAN GARCIA

The state rested its case yesterday in the murder trial of Richard L. Kuklinski, the so-called "Iceman" of Bergen County, after 13 days of testimony in Hackensack.

Prosecutors called 34 witnesses to the stand and introduced more than 100 exhibits as evidence against Kuklinski, 52, who is charged with using cyanide to poison two crime associates to keep police off his trail. Medical testimony showed the two were also strangled.

Kuklinski, a grandfather who lives in Dumont, is also charged with three other murders, for which he will be tried later. In one of those slayings, he allegedly stuffed a corpse in a freezer for two years, prompting authorities to dub him "The Iceman."

Defense attorney Neal Frank is expected to call several medical experts to refute evidence that cyanide was used in the slayings. Autopsies found no traces of cyanide in the bodies of the victims, Gary Smith and Daniel Deppner, both 38.

However, a medical examiner testified that the deadly poison dissipates quickly when a body decomposes.

During testimony, witnesses repeatedly described Kuklinski as the "brains" or the "boss" of a Paterson crime ring that operated out of a small novelty store.

Two members of the crime ring testified that Kuklinski's gang held up jewelry stores, stole cars, forged checks and committed burglaries before police began to close in on them.

The witnesses testified that Kuklinski hid Smith and Deppner in motels to keep police from finding them. The state produced a string of motel receipts showing that Smith and Deppner had checked into several motels under the aliases "Jack Bush" and "Bill Bradley."

Smith was found strangled in a North Bergen motel in December 1982 and Deppner's body was found in a wooded area in Passaic County in May 1983.

Richard Patterson, 29, a Florida man who was formerly engaged to Kuklinski's daughter, told jurors he helped Kuklinski dispose of a body in the West Milford woods.

Patterson testified that when he returned from a hunting trip to New York, Kuklinski told him he had been

keeping a friend in Patterson's Bergen field apartment. Patterson testified that Kuklinski told him an intruder must have killed the victim, later identified as Deppner, while Kuklinski was out bringing the man dinner.

Medical Examiner Dr. Geetha Narajean testified that both Deppner and Smith must have been poisoned and then strangled because their bodies bore no signs that they resisted their attackers.

"It is rare in two healthy adults to find no defense wounds and no signs of resistance," she testified.

Dominick Polifrone, an agent for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, testified that he went undercover at the Paterson store and befriended Kuklinski.

In secretly recorded conversations played in court, Kuklinski described to Polifrone the proficiency of cyanide, terming the poison a "nice, quiet" killer.

"You just spray it in their nose and they fall asleep," Kuklinski said on the tapes.

The defense begins its case today before the jury in Superior Court.



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE STAR LEDGER  
NEWARK, N.J.Date 3/3/88  
Edition: page 40

# 'Iceman' tape played at murder trial reveals boasts of cyanide murder

By DAN GARCIA

Richard L. Kuklinski bragged nonchalantly about the lethal properties of cyanide, describing how he killed a man on a busy street by spraying the poison in his face.

"I've done it on a busy street with a guy, and they

thought the guy had a heart attack," Kuklinski said in a secretly-recorded conversation played in a Hackensack courtroom yesterday.

"I walked right next to him. Sneeze. And he tripped and fell and they thought he had a heart attack. I've done it on the busiest street in the world. People all over the place."

Kuklinski's brazen comments came in tape-recorded conversations with Dominick Polifrone, a federal undercover agent who testified yesterday that he befriended Kuklinski by passing himself off as a swaggering, streetwise hit man "with connections."

Kuklinski, who is accused of killing two crime confederates to keep police off his trail, repeatedly asked Polifrone to provide cyanide, the agent testified.

Polifrone, an agent for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, testified that he and Kuklinski plotted to kill a "rich kid" from New York by mixing his cocaine with cyanide.

Polifrone, who went by the alias Michael Dominick Provenzano, testified that Kuklinski called him repeatedly from his home in Dumont and from pay telephones, and continually inquired whether Polifrone had acquired the cyanide through his connections.

The two men met frequently at fast-food restaurants to discuss "business," Polifrone testified. Polifrone said he was working "deep undercover," meaning that he was using a fictitious driver's license, car registration and other identification to conceal his identity.

In numerous taped conversations, Kuklinski talked matter-of-factly about the best way to utilize cyanide.

The 52-year-old Kuklinski is accused of killing Gary T. Smith and Daniel Deppner, both 38, by sprinkling cyanide on their food before the men were strangled. Smith was slain in December 1982 at the York Motel in North Bergen and Deppner was found in the West Milford woods in May 1983. Both were allegedly "workers" in Kuklinski's Paterson-based crime ring that engaged in burglaries, robberies, and bad checks.

Kuklinski's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Neal

M. Frank, told the Superior Court jury that Kuklinski assumed a "tough-guy" posture in order to cope with a "tough crowd" he was mingling with in Paterson. He said there is no specific evidence to support the type of killings Kuklinski bragged about.

Frank pointed out that when Kuklinski was to meet Polifrone and another agent posing as the "rich kid" at the Vince Lombardi Recreation Area on the New Jersey Turnpike, Kuklinski failed to show up.

Kuklinski, who is dubbed "The Iceman" because he is also charged with three other slayings, including one in which the victim was stuffed in a freezer, reassured Polifrone on the tapes that cyanide was an "easy" way to kill.

"I have a few problems I want to dispose of," Kuklinski said. "I have some rats I want to get rid of."

Polifrone responded: "The only thing I can't understand is, don't you use a piece of iron to get rid of these people? You use cyanide?"

"Why be messy?" Kuklinski said. "You do it nice and calm. It may show, my friend, but it's quiet, it's not messy. It's not as noisy."

"There's even spray mists around," Kuklinski continued. "You put that stuff in a mist, you spray it in somebody's face, and they go to sleep." But Kuklinski added that he had experience in killing with firearms and knives as well.

"I'm not averse to a little lead. I'm not averse to steel. I've done it all ways, as far as you've known or heard. There isn't too many things I haven't tried."

Pretending to marvel at Kuklinski's experiences with cyanide, Polifrone said: "Your way sounds like a James Bond movie."

"Where there's a will, there's a way," Kuklinski said.

'Iceman' tape played at murder trial reveals boasts of cyanide murder.

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THE STAR LEDGER  
NEWARK, N.J.Date: 3/9/88  
Edition: pg. 25Title: DEFENSE WITNESS  
TELLS 'ICEMAN' TRIAL  
CYANIDE WASN'T USED  
TO KILL VICTIMS  
orClassification:  
Submitting Office:

# Defense witness tells 'Iceman' trial cyanide wasn't used to kill victims

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A veteran forensic expert testified yesterday that cyanide was probably not present in the bodies of two men. Richard L. Kuklinski is charged with poisoning more than five years ago.

Contradicting earlier testimony by a state medical examiner, Dr. Frederic Rieders of Philadelphia testified that it did not appear that cyanide was used to kill Gary T. Smith and Daniel E. Deppner, both 38.

Rieders acknowledged that if the chemical had been used to kill Smith and Deppner, it could have dissipated because of decomposition and putrefaction of the bodies.

But he said there was a "reasonable probability" that it should have been found during autopsies. Medical examiners failed to find a trace of the deadly poison in both victims.

Rieders was the first major witness to appear on behalf of the defense in the double-murder trial in Superior Court, Hackensack. Assistant public defender Neal Frank is expected to call one or two other medical experts to continue to refute state witnesses' claims of cyanide poisoning.

Lawyers said testimony may be completed today. Kuklinski, 52, of Dumont, is charged with slaying Smith and Deppner by lacing their last meals with cyanide. The two men, described by witnesses as error-prone "workers" in Kuklinski's Paterson crime ring, were also strangled, according to medical testimony. Kuklinski is known as the "Iceman" to authorities, who say he placed the body of another alleged murder victim in a freezer.

Rieders, who said he has been a forensic toxicologist for 41 years, said cyanide would have been "readily demonstrated" in the corpses of Smith and Deppner if the poison was used as the killing agent.

"There is no evidence whatsoever of the presence of cyanide," Rieders said. "There is a reasonable probability that if these individuals had been poisoned by cyanide, it would be readily identifiable."

Under questioning by Deputy Attorney General Robert

Carroll, Rieders conceded that cyanide could have escaped detection in lab tests because of the decomposition and putrefaction of the bodies.

"If a body is given a lethal dose of cyanide and it is subject to advanced decomposition, it is not only possible that it would not be detected, it's unlikely it would be detected."

"The only place it could be readily detected would be in the gastric (stomach) contents. Even if the body were in advanced decomposition, if the gastric contents were preserved, there is a reasonable probability of cyanide being detected, even if the tissue samples were frozen for seven months.

"If a person dies from cyanide, there is a reasonable probability of smelling it, testing for it, and finding it if they (medical examiners) proceed to do so," Rieders said.

According to witnesses, Smith was found dead in a North Bergen motel room Dec. 23, 1982. Deppner's body was discovered May 13, 1983, in the West Milford woods. A witness told the jury Deppner was slain Feb. 7, 1983.

Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. Geetha Natarajan, testifying earlier for the state, said toxicology tests were conducted in June 1983 to test Deppner's and Smith's frozen tissue samples for cyanide. The tests proved negative.

Natarajan testified that earlier autopsies did not check for cyanide because there was no immediate suspicion that they had been poisoned.

She also said she did not immediately order tests for cyanide because the decomposition of the bodies would have made such tests fruitless.

Natarajan testified that although the tests did not reveal traces of cyanide, the men were apparently impaired by a drug at the time of their strangulation because their bodies bore no defense wounds or signs of resistance to their attackers.

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THE STAR LEDG  
NEWARK, N.Date: 3/10/88  
Edition: pg. 36

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# 'Iceman' defense rests as witness doubts use of cyanide in murders

By DAN GARCIA

The defense rested its case yesterday in the trial of "The Iceman," Richard L. Kuklinski, after a retired New York City chief medical examiner testified that cyanide was probably not used in the slayings of two Passaic County men.

Dr. Dominick DiMaio told the jury in Superior Court, Hackensack, that there was "no reasonable certainty" that cyanide was used to kill Gary Smith and Daniel Deppner.

On Tuesday, Dr. Frederic Rieders, a Philadelphia forensic toxicologist, said cyanide was probably not present in the bodies of Smith and Deppner.

However, the state yesterday called a rebuttal witness, Dr. Michael Baden, who testified that the deaths of Smith and Deppner were "consistent" with cyanide poisoning.

Kuklinski, 52, of Dumont, is accused of killing Smith and Deppner, his alleged confederates in a Paterson crime ring, in order to silence them to authorities. Prosecutors believe Kuklinski poisoned the men by contaminating their food with cyanide before they were strangled. Autopsies failed to detect the deadly poison, but Kuklinski bragged in secretly taped conversations with an undercover federal agent that he had once killed a man by sprinkling cyanide on his hamburger.

Kuklinski addressed the court for the first time yesterday, telling Judge Frederick W. Kuechenmeister that he will not testify in his own defense because "my hands are tied."

"I believe my hands are tied at this time because of the position the court has taken," Kuklinski said. "I believe I have no choice."

Kuechenmeister told Kuklinski that "the court has taken no position" on whether Kuklinski should testify, but he warned Kuklinski that should he take the stand, he would be subject to cross-examination by prosecutors.

If Kuklinski were to take the stand, prosecutors could seek to question him about three other murders with which he is charged. In one of those, he allegedly stuffed his victim in a freezer, prompting state investigators to nickname him "The Iceman."

Kuklinski's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Neal Frank, rested his case after calling nine witnesses over three days. Five testified for five minutes or less. The state presented its case over 13 days, calling 34 witnesses.

Frank is to call a rebuttal witness Friday before the jury begins deliberations on Monday.

Rieders and DiMaio contradicted earlier testimony by Deputy State Medical Examiner Dr. Geetha Natarajan, who testified that the victims apparently died of cyanide poisoning and strangulation.

Natarajan said she recorded no conclusive causes of death in the death certificates of Smith and Deppner be-

Title: ICEMAN DEFENSE  
RESTS AS WITNESS  
DOUBTS USE OF CYA-  
NIDE IN MURDERS  
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cause their bodies were decomposed. Smith was dead for four days when his body was found in a North Bergen motel room in December 1982, and Deppner had been dead for months when his body was discovered in the West Milford woods in May 1983.

Natarajan testified that strangulation and cyanide were the apparent causes of death because the men's necks had ligature marks on them that came from a rope or cord, and they must have been impaired by a drug because they bore no signs that they had resisted their attackers. In addition, Deppner's body bore pink blotches of lividity that occur in cyanide poisoning.

However, DiMaio contradicted Natarajan, his former assistant in the New York morgue, by saying that decomposition would cause color changes in a corpse that would obscure strangulation marks, defense wounds and lividity.

While decomposition would have masked strangulation and defense wounds, cyanide, if it was present, should have been found in the victims' stomachs, DiMaio said.

"If the stomach lining undergoes degenerative changes, you can still find cyanide if the individual has food in him," DiMaio testified. "If the food is easily recognizable, you know the food will retain the cyanide he took."

Autopsies found undigested food—hamburger meat, potatoes, carrots and beans—in the victims' stomachs, but the medical examiners performed no toxicological tests on the food.

DiMaio, who said he performed more than 20,000 autopsies during his career, including 31 years with the New York medical examiner's office, testified that "there is no evidence in this case to a reasonable medical certainty" that cyanide was present in the victims. DiMaio said "slippage" of the skin would also have contributed to the obscuring of any strangulation, defense marks or other hemorrhages.

However, Baden, the state's rebuttal witness, sided with Natarajan's view of the case, saying that cyanide was apparently used.

Baden, a forensic scientist with the New York state police, testified that cyanide, if used, would have dissipated rapidly during decomposition.

The pink blotches on Deppner's chest were clear symptoms of cyanide poisoning.

"I've exhumed bodies that had been dead three or four years, and the pink lividity was still obvious," Baden said.

Asked by Frank under cross-examination whether cyanide was used, Baden testified: "I can say the deaths are consistent with cyanide, but I can't say that it was present."

Both doctors testified that they reached their conclusions from reading Natarajan's autopsy reports.

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# Both sides wrap up in 'Iceman' murder trial

## Prosecution points to tapes, defense attacks state witnesses

THE STAR LEDGER  
NEWARK, N.J.

Date: MARCH 15, 1988

Edition:

PAGE# 20

Title: BOTH SIDES WRAP UP I  
'ICEMAN' MURDER TRIAL

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Submitting Office:

By DAN GARCIA

Richard Kuklinski's own tape-recorded words should serve to convict him of two cyanide-related murders, a prosecutor said yesterday in closing arguments in the trial of "The Iceman."

But Kuklinski's attorney, Public Defender Neal Frank, called the evidence "a bunch of garbage" and assailed the state's witnesses as "a parade of known killers and liars."

Frank and Deputy Attorney General Robert Carroll presented closing arguments in the trial of Kuklinski, 52, who is charged with using cyanide to poison two alleged Paterson crime confederates, Gary Smith and Daniel Deppner, in 1982 and 1983.

The victims were also strangled, which Carroll described as "insurance" so they would not live to testify against Kuklinski.

The case will go to the jury today. If Kuklinski is convicted, the jury will decide if he will die for the crimes.

In his 2½-hour summation in Superior Court, Hackensack, Carroll told the jury Kuklinski made a fatal mistake in revealing details of the slayings to Dominick Polifrone, an undercover

federal agent who labored for months to win his confidence by posing as a mob-style New York hit man.

"These aren't my words, they're Mr. Kuklinski's words," Carroll told the jurors as the courtroom heard Kuklinski's tape-recorded conversations with Polifrone.

In the tapes, Kuklinski bragged about having killed a man by spreading cyanide on his hamburger.

"You just let him have enough to go bon appetit," Kuklinski said on the tapes. "You blend it in with something goopy. Put it on his hamburger with catsup or gravy. You gotta spread it out."

At one point on the tapes, Kuklinski told Polifrone that one of his victims ate an entire hamburger without showing any immediate signs.

"I'm sitting there watching this guy, and I'm saying, 'Where did I go wrong?'" Kuklinski said. "He must

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have had the constitution of a bull. But when he went, he went. He had enough to kill 10 guys."

At one point, Carroll stood at arm's length from the seated Kuklinski, pointed to him and said: "The most cowardly thing this man did was death by poison. By the time it sneaks up, you're defenseless and there's nothing you can do about it, you're done."

At one point on the tapes, which were recorded in 1986, Kuklinski reveals to Polifrone that police have been questioning him about the slayings. He worries that his former crime ring "foreman," Percy House, may testify against him, and tells Polifrone that he can't get to House because House was in protective custody while he was cooperating with authorities.

"This is four years after the murders, and Mr. Kuklinski is worried about one more rat," Carroll said.

In testifying against Kuklinski,

House admitted that he ordered the deaths of Smith and Deppner for "messing up."

Smith was found dead in December 1982 in a North Bergen motel room and Deppner was found in the West Milford woods in May 1983.

In his summation, Frank argued that it is House who should be on trial. He noted House was granted immunity from prosecution in a previous murder in Paterson, and now has been granted immunity to testify against Kuklinski.

"Percy House is a known killer and liar and is walking away from three murders," Frank said. "He'll do anything to stay out of jail."

Frank charged House's common-law wife, Barbara Deppner, who was formerly married to Daniel Deppner, with testifying against Kuklinski to maintain custody of her eight children.

Frank recalled the testimony of Marsha Membrino, an attorney for the state Division of Youth and Family Services, who said the state was planning to take away the children.

The couple retained custody after State Police investigator Pat Karte, who headed the investigation of Kuklinski, testified at a DYFS hearing on the couple's behalf.

Frank also lashed out at the state's failure to find cyanide during the autopsies of Smith and Deppner.

"How in the world do you consider cyanide as a cause of death when there is no forensic evidence of cyanide in their bodies? That is the most half-baked, baloney position I've ever seen," Frank said.

State Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. Geetha Natarajan had testified that while no cyanide was found, the deaths were "consistent" with cyanide poisoning because the bodies bore no signs of defense wounds that would indicate they resisted strangulation.

However, Frank called three forensic experts who testified that such defense wounds would not be found because of decomposition.

Only one witness, Richard Patterson, who was once engaged to Kuklinski's daughter, Merrick, tied him directly to one of the bodies. Patterson testified that Kuklinski asked him to help dump a body on Feb. 7, 1983.

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THE STAR LEDGER  
NEWARK, N.J.

Date:

Edition: MARCH, 16, 1988

ICEMAN JURY FAILS TO

Title: REACH VERDICT

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Submitting Office:

**'Iceman' murder jury fails to****reach****verdict in first day of deliberations**

By DAN GARCIA

A Bergen County jury weighing the fate of Richard Kuklinski, the so-called "Iceman" who is charged with two cyanide-related murders, failed to reach a verdict in its first day of deliberations.

The jurors were given the case yesterday in the 18th day of the trial in Superior Court, Hackensack.

Kuklinski, a 52-year-old grandfather who lives in Dumont, is charged with killing two alleged crime cohorts, Gary Smith and Daniel Deppner, in 1982 and 1983.

The jury is studying an eight-count indictment in which the 6-foot-4-inch, 240-pound Kuklinski is also charged with conspiracy to commit murder and with harboring Smith and Deppner to avoid prosecution.

If the six-man, six-woman jury finds him guilty of the slayings, it will reconvene to decide whether he should die by lethal injection.

In closing arguments, Deputy Attorney General Robert Carroll portrayed Kuklinski as the "cowardly" head of a Paterson crime ring who sprinkled cyanide on the meals of his victims to hinder his capture.

According to testimony by the 34 state's witnesses, Kuklinski was the "boss" of a crime ring that stole cars, passed hot checks, and committed burglaries and robberies.

Percy House, the group's "foreman," testified that while he was in Passaic County Jail, he ordered the executions of Smith and Deppner, the ring's "workers," for fouling up several crimes.

House said he told his common-law wife, Barbara Deppner, to pass the execution orders to Kuklinski. Barbara Deppner is the ex-wife of Daniel Deppner.

Witnesses testified that after police closed in on the gang and jailed House, Kuklinski and Barbara Deppner hid Smith and Daniel Deppner in several motels.

Smith was found slain in a North Bergen motel on Dec. 23, 1982, and Deppner was allegedly killed on Feb. 7, 1983, in the Bergenfield apartment of Richard Patterson, who was engaged to Kuklinski's daughter.

Barbara Deppner testified that Daniel Deppner called her from a motel room and told her that "Richie (Kuklinski)

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sprinkled a drug on Gary's hamburger and his eyes went goofy."

Daniel Deppner said he strangled Smith with a lamp cord, Barbara Deppner testified.

Daniel Deppner's body was later found bound and wrapped in garbage bags in the West Milford woods. Richard Patterson testified that while he was dating Kuklinski's daughter, Merrick, Kuklinski had keys to Patterson's Bergenfield apartment.

Prosecutors theorize Kuklinski poisoned Deppner in the apartment before strangling him. Patterson said he drove Kuklinski to West Milford, where Kuklinski took the body from car the trunk and dumped it in the woods.

The state also produced a series of tape recordings of Kuklinski talking with a federal undercover agent who befriended Kuklinski. In the tapes, Kuklinski talked at length about killing a man by lacing his hamburger with cyanide.

Neal Frank, Kuklinski's attorney, argued that Kuklinski should be found innocent because autopsies failed to detect cyanide in the victims.

Yesterday, Frank asked Judge Frederick W. Kuechenmeister to instruct the jurors that they should find Kuklinski innocent of killing Smith "by his own conduct" if they believe that Smith died from strangulation at Deppner's hand.

If Kuklinski is convicted of murder "by his own conduct," he would face the death penalty. A conviction of simple murder would remove the possibility of capital punishment.

Kuechenmeister rejected Frank's motion and instructed the jury that it could find Kuklinski guilty of murder "by his own conduct" if it believes that the cyanide poisoning and strangulation contributed equally to Smith's death.

Frank said his motion is intended to reduce Kuklinski's exposure to the death penalty, and is not a concession that Kuklinski was involved in either slaying.

Kuklinski is also charged with three other slayings for which he will be tried later. He was nicknamed "The Iceman" because one of his alleged victims was stuffed in a freezer for about two years.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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**'Iceman' convicted  
in cyanide murders of two**

**Kuklinski averts capital conviction  
as jury rules he acted as accomplice**

THE STAR LEDGER  
NEWARK, N.J.

Date: 3/17/88  
Edition: pg. 27

Title: 'ICEMAN' CONVICTED  
IN CYANIDE MURDERS OF TWO

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By DAN GARCIA

A Bergen County jury returned speedy conviction yesterday against Richard L. Kuklinski, finding the so-called "Iceman" guilty of poisoning two men with cyanide to silence them to authorities.

The jury deliberated for less than four hours over two days before convicting the 52-year-old Kuklinski on all eight counts of an indictment charging him with murder, conspiracy to murder and harboring the victims to hinder prosecution.

However, Kuklinski escaped the possibility of being executed for his crimes because the jurors did not find that he committed the murders "by his own conduct," which is required in a capital conviction.

Because the victims had been strangled as well as poisoned, the jurors ruled that Kuklinski acted as an accomplice in the killings.

The conviction climaxed a two-year state investigation in which prosecutors gained an indictment against Kuklinski largely because undercover federal agent Dominick Polifrone befriended the accused killer and secretly tape-recorded his bragging about murder and cyanide.

"The jury believed the tapes," said Kuklinski's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Neal Frank, who had argued that the tapes were inadmissible because they were irrelevant.

Frank indicated he will appeal the verdict, saying that sketchy medical evidence pointing to the use of cyanide left "reasonable doubt" in the case.

Polifrone, the undercover agent, said he was "very pleased" with the verdict.

"It took me about a year just to meet him. He was the one that brought cyanide into the case when he asked me to get him some pure cyanide," Polifrone said.

"He believed that I was a wiseguy (Mafia member)," said Polifrone, an agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Kuklinski, who has three children and one grandchild, had no reaction when the verdict was read. His wife, Barbara, and his daughter, Merrick, cried openly in the packed courtroom before and after the verdict.

Kuklinski, who did not testify in the trial, faces a minimum sentence of 30 years without parole on each murder conviction. He also faces five-to-10 years for conspiracy and three to five years for harboring.

Judge Frederick W. Kuechenmeister set sentencing for April 22. Kuklinski, who told police he is a wholesale goods broker, remained in Bergen County Jail under \$2 million bail.

Kuklinski faces separate trials on three other murders, including one in which he allegedly stuffed the victim inside a freezer for two years to obscure the time of death. Court officials said the first of the three trials is scheduled for late April.

According to testimony in the month-long trial, Kuklinski headed a Paterson crime ring that was under investigation for a series of car thefts, jewelry store holdups and check forgeries.

After police arrested the group's "foreman," Percy House, Kuklinski hid the ring's "workers," Gary Smith and Daniel Deppner, at North Jersey motels, instructing them not to use the telephone or stand near the windows.

Barbara Deppner, who is Daniel Deppner's ex-wife, told the jury that when she visited Deppner at a Fort Lee motel, he confessed that he strangled Smith after Kuklinski sprinkled "a drug" on Smith's hamburger.

Smith's body was found under a bed in a North Bergen motel on Dec. 23, 1982. Deppner's body was found wrapped in garbage bags and dumped in the West Milford woods on May 13, 1983.

Jurors heard testimony that after Deppner strangled Smith, Kuklinski hid Deppner in a Bergenfield apartment belonging to Richard Patterson, who was engaged to Merrick Kuklinski.

In one of the most dramatic moments of the trial, prosecutors displayed a blood-stained carpet and matting taken from the apartment four years after the slaying.

Prosecutors theorize that Kuklinski poisoned Deppner with cyanide and that fluids from his mouth stained the carpet.

Patterson testified that Kuklinski asked him to drive to West Milford, where Kuklinski took a garbage-bag bundle from the trunk and carried it into the woods.

Deputy Attorney General Robert Carroll, who prosecuted the case with Deputy Attorney General Charles Waldron, said he was pleased that the state was able to gather enough evidence to convict Kuklinski.

"Some evidence was circumstantial and some was direct. It was direct evidence when he spoke on the tapes," Carroll said.



U.S. Department of Justice

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United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey

970 Broad Street, Room 502  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

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FTS/341-2155

August 20, 1985

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Post Office Box 1158  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

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Dear [Redacted]

TITLE  
Re: Richard Kuklinski, dba  
SUNSET COMPANY,  
EMERSON, N.J.  
NBA

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I have been in contact with Deputy Attorney General Daniel DeCore (609-984-7667) concerning the above-captioned person. The State is handling a sensitive investigation against him relating to his alleged connection to five homicides. In the course of their investigation they uncovered what they believed to be bankruptcy fraud on his part in his filing of a petition in this district, Case No. 84-03357(DV). The pertinent information is as follows:

RICHARD KUKLINSKI  
169 Sunset Street  
Dumont, N.J. 07608  
SS# 142-26-7071

The allegations are that Kuklinski had hidden assets when he declared bankruptcy. His petition claims he had no business interests but investigation reveals the existence of a pornographic material company known as the Sunset Company, 428 Old Hook Road, Emerson, New Jersey. He was in business with George Malliband of Huntington, Pennsylvania. Kuklinski owed Malliband \$30,000 but Malliband was shot to death in 1980 before Kuklinski could repay him.

Kuklinski has admitted to running the Sunset Company. He made his admission to Detective Sargeant [Redacted] of the Jersey City Police Department on February 11, 1980. He again admitted owning and operating the Sunset Company in July

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